



The Carolina DX Association

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
N4HN	Tom Wright	Vice-Pres.
K4SQR	Jim Miller	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Assoc. Cluster Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

SEE WHACK (CWAC) 2004

Our Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) is just around the corner. This is the contest where we put the most emphasis in participating as a club. Once again, CDXA will be offering incentives to our members to participate. Mark your calendar for this year's dates.

CQWW-SSB
OCTOBER 30-31

CQWW-CW
NOVEMBER 27-28

The prize lineup this year is based on the KISS principle. Except for the winning category prizes (see below) there will be no need to calculate points to see if you qualify for prizes. The prizes will be awarded based on the number of submitted QSOs. Qualifying levels and prizes are:

100 QSOs	CDXA lapel pin.
500 QSOs	CDXA label pin and coffee mug with CDXA logo.
1000 QSOs	CDXA label pin, coffee mug with logo and a beautifully engraved acrylic award.

To be eligible for any award, simply make the required number of contacts, submit your scores to CQ Magazine and send a copy of your submittal to W3GQ

(sturpe@charter.net) or Paul Sturpe, 8860 Peninsula Dr., Terrell, NC 28682.

These goals are easily achieved for ANY club member. Note that the required number of QSOs is additive, e.g. make 50 SSB contacts and 50 CW contacts and you are eligible for the lapel pin. Last year we had 26 participants. Can we double the number of participants this year?

In addition to the prizes above, an engraved acrylic award will be given to the winners in the following categories.

First place DXpedition *
First Place – SSB

First Place – (Combined SSB & CW)
First Place CW

* To be eligible for the DXpedition prize, you must meet the CQWW DX Contest's rule X.2. We will consider the number of points contributed toward the club's score, to award this special category.

Paul Sturpe, W3GQ 828-478-3650

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.tzo.com	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

Hands Across the Waters

On the return drive from Dayton in 2003, I learned from Mauro (IN3QBR) that a team member from the IH9P Contest Team wished to upgrade to Amateur Extra. When we arrived at my home, I retrieved the Amateur Extra Study Guide that I had used for my own upgrade, and gave it to Mauro to carry back to Italy.

In late September 2004, I received the following note via email from Italy:

Hi John, I'm Vinicio one of IH9P, last year I take a technician + license on Dayton (OH). Tanks for your book. Last Saturday September 25-04 on Bologna (Italy) I have a upgrade my license now EX-TRA.(I'm very Happy) Now waiting a confirm from FCC a new upgrade.

73 and good luck de Vinicio IK2CIO - KD7WAZ (AE) CIAO CIAO.....I hope a see you on Dayton next year.

I sent a note back to Vinicio, with a copy to both Mauro (IN3QBR) and Fabrizio (IN3ZNR), telling Vinicio that CDXA now had an International flavor because two of his countrymen had since joined CDXA, and I offered my congratulations to him for the upgrade. Shortly thereafter I received the following note from Mauro:

Hello John, Yes, Vinicio have the Extra Class License. Maybe your magic touch give to the book the luck to the reader to pass the exam very easy but the true story is that Vinicio spend many hours to study it and passed the exam with only two questions fault. Congrats Vinicio !! Good idea to join in the membership, Andre, now CDXA can be an Interna-

tional Club. Check your mail box next week, envelope is on the way. Hope to see you in next Dayton...Ciao! 73's Mauro

PS. Tnx for CDXA Newsletter. Always well done.

Shortly after getting Mauro's note, I received an email from Fabrizio (IN3ZNR) telling me that he had read my note to Vinicio and that he, too, had passed his upgrade examination at the same Bologna test session as Vinicio. Like Vinicio, he was quite pleased with his accomplishment. Fabrizio (chosen nickname is 'Brix') went on to tell me that he was returning to Pantelleria Island in this year's CQWW DX SSB contest to operate Multi-Single as IH9P. You'll recall the IH9P group won the multi-multi category in 2002. Last year, they were top dogs in the multi-two category (sadly, without Brix's help). They obviously know how to win, and their location in Italian Africa gives them a multiplier advantage for inter-continental QSOs. So, when you hear IH9P in the contest, be sure to tell the operator to give your greetings to Brix, a fellow CDXA member. Who knows, it may even be Brix at the microphone!

Southworth, KI4YV, Back on the Air

The February, 2003 issue of *The Pileup* reported that Bob Southworth, KI4YV was going to have to "hang 'em up" after being a ham for nearly 66 years. It seemed as if an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) recently implanted in Bob's chest would "fire off" when Bob was around any RF sources.

In the summer of 2003, several of us went out to Bob's farmstead to relocate Bob's tower and install a remotely controlled transceiver, but some snags prevented implementation. About 6 weeks ago, several of us got a call from Bob telling us that a new model of the ICD had been implanted. Bob had documentation from the ICD engineering team that he would be safe running a bare-foot transceiver on the HF bands even with the former location of his tower. Shortly thereafter, Mac Wood (W4PVT), John White (WB2NHQ), Barb Scott (KG4QEN), John Scott (K8YC), Bob's son, Rod, and Rod's "significant other", Cheryl, moved Bob's antennas back to where they started. Bob is BACK ON THE AIR! Rod tells me that Bob now wears a continual smile on his face. He's been welcomed back by his old NTS gang on some of his recent checkins. We're all happy for you, Bob!

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Jim Miller, K4SQR
11600 Hilda Court

Hats Off to our Past Presidents

By John Scott, K8YC

Over a year ago Ken Boyd, K4DXA, suggested to me that it would be a nice gesture as we begin our third decade of existence to honor the past presidents of CDXA. Well, if you believe "good things take time", then that will suffice to explain why at last we've compiled a list. I believe it to be accurate, thanks to old copies of the Pileup that Ken has retained over the years. For those that don't know, Roger Burt convened a number of hams interested in DXing at his home in the summer of 1981, and CDXA was born. A number of those present at that introductory meeting are still active CDXA members today. The Presidents over the years are:

1981-82	Roger Burt, N4ZC
1983-86	Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF
1987	Gary Dixon, K4MQG
1988-92	Ken Boyd, K4DXA
1993-95	Joe Simpkins, K4MD
1996	??? (Anybody remember?)
1997	Bill Parris, AA4R
1998	Joe Simpkins, K4MD
1999-2000	Bob Burton, N4PQX
2001-02	Bill Turner, W4WNT
2003-04	Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF

Our fondest regards to those who have led CDXA through the years. Thank you for your unselfish contribution in making the Carolina DX Association a great meeting place for DXers!

Don't Forget RTTY!!

We all get pretty focused on contesting in the September to March time frame. And, our focus is usually on CW and SSB modes. Yet there are those who really go for the digital modes like RTTY and PSK31. Did you know that there is a CQWW-RTTY contest?

Not too long ago, to work RTTY one needed a piece of hardware to interface your computer to the radio. This piece of hardware was akin to the TNC used for packet radio. That all changed when sound cards and their embedded digital signal processors (DSP) became standard equipment on most PCs with multimedia capabilities. Ham experimenters soon made available free software like DigiPan and MMTTY to work PSK31 and RTTY, respectively. Then one need only install a few patch

Peter I Funding Drive A Big Success

We tried something a little different in asking the membership to directly support the upcoming DXpedition to Peter I Island. President Goldthorpe recently notified the Peter I DXpedition group that CDXA will be sending a check for \$1,600 to them on behalf of "The Members of the Carolina DX Association". That means that we had \$1,100 in contributions from you, the members of CDXA, and a \$500 match from the treasury.

In the past few years, we've been able to provide modest financial support to selected DXpeditions by keeping the expenses of running the association to a minimum. By your editor's reckoning, we've been able to save approximately \$70 per month on publishing costs of the Pileup through reduced printing and mailing costs by use of email. Also, in the past several years, we've added approximately 40 new dues-paying members to our ranks. We can only hope that the enthusiasm we share for "chasing DX" is infectious and that many others will join us in the hunt for "new ones". Amateur radio operators around the world all benefit when a group goes to a "rare one" that is needed for their award totals. It is wonderful that, as a group, we've stepped forward and lent our support once again. **THANK YOU, Members of CDXA!**

RTTY. . (con'd)

cords between PC and radio, and get on the air. And, the free software is very professionally done.

Ben Antanaitis, WB2RHM, is one CDXA member who has "caught the fever". Ben recently entered the CQWW-RTTY contest and reports the following summary data:

QSOs	PTs	US/VE	DXCC	ZN
533	1237	84	130	60
Total Claimed Score= 338,938				

Ben's soapbox comments for CDXA read:

... "First CQWW-RTTY contest. Used a TS-440S at 100 watts, N1MM contest software with MMTTY, Barker & Williamson folded dipole and a new TH3JRS tribander that I finished putting up at 6:00PM on Friday just before the contest began ... What a rush!"

What are **you** waiting for?

BPL Update

Bob Burton, N4PQX, sent along a web link to a submission made to the FCC from ARINC's Air/Ground International Radio Service. If you wander back to the March, 2002 issue of the Pileup, you find an article by Frank Dowd explaining that Aeronautical Radio, Inc. (ARINC) provides in-flight radio services to the air transport industry, especially for International over-water flights. If you move forward to the NTIA's report on BPL earlier this year, you'll find that NTIA warned that BPL could have grave effects on communications to in-flight aircraft, especially during the critical approaches and departures from controlled airports. ARINC's filing supports NTIA's comments with its own analysis using NEC2 modeling to support their argument. It makes for interesting reading and can be found at:

http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6516484229

Interestingly enough, the analysis performed by ARINC models a three or four pole span of electrical transmission line in much the same way as ARRL performed the same modeling in their submission to the FCC. Not surprising, however, is that ARINC reached the same conclusions as the ARRL. Those conclusions are that there is significant interference potential from a single line model that will only be compounded in a widespread deployment of BPL. Also, large signal excursions exist along the length of a BPL-fed transmission line making the compliance measurements now used for typically "compact" Part 15 devices inadequate for use in BPL compliance measurement. An introduction to the ARINC filing indicates that their findings were presented in person to FCC technical staff members before making the formal filing. I find it refreshing that part of the public record now contains names of actual FCC personnel who were informed of BPL's shortcomings based on scientific investigation.

It was recently announced that the FCC will be issuing a Report and Order (R&O) soon on BPL. Despite several "victories" in BPL interference cases around the country, it is still not clear that the FCC commissioners are any less enthusiastic about BPL despite the many voices speaking out against it. Stay tuned.

Many have cited that BPL is the wrong technology for what the FCC is trying to accomplish. Paul Ponak, AD4IE, sent along an interesting article about the use of

Wi-Fi technology for a rural implementation of broadband data transmission. The article reads:

Attack of the Giant Wi-Fi

What's bigger than Rhode Island, less expensive than most McMansions and up to 30 times faster than dialup?

It's what may be the world's biggest Wi-Fi network, a 1,500-square mile hot zone covering the rolling hills, wheat fields and small towns of rural Washington state. Built by Columbia Energy, a subsidiary of the Columbia Rural Electric Association, and currently serving about 100 customers, the giant Wi-Fi is being touted as rural America's answer to the broadband connectivity of big cities.

According to the Seattle-Post Intelligencer, the network cost just \$600,000 to construct (that's \$400 per square mile). It relies on antennas and smaller pico cell transmitters from Vivato Inc., a San Francisco-based company, and wireless Internet service from Spokane-based OneEighty Networks.

The Post-Intelligencer reports that customers can pay as little as \$39.95 per month for 256 kilobits per second, up the \$295.95 per month for 1.5 megabits per second. With 200 customers expected by year's end, that may not provide enough to buy a warehouse of modems from cable biggie, Comcast, but for the farmers, real estate agents, stores and homeowners of central Washington, it's a pretty hot deal.

Like to read more? Check this out: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/189699_vivato07.html

Need a Neat QSL Card?

Did you ever run out of QSL cards while waiting for your reorder to be printed? Or, do you only occasionally send out QSLs? Your webmaster has been hard at work to provide you an easy way to produce several "interim" QSL cards. Merely go to the CDXA website and from the home page, click on "Custom QSL". You'll be presented with up to four quite nice QSL cards for you to print after filling in the blanks. The QSL has the CDXA, CQ and ARRL logotypes on it. Instructions are on the website on how to print, including how to ensure the "background" prints if you want a really nice card. Just another service of the CDXA website.

2004 Edition of BBQ—A Real “Hoot”

Saturday, October 9 saw the arrival of the 2004 Edition of the CDXA Barbecue. Some coming down I-77 from north of I-85 arrived a little later than expected (this was the weekend of the “great interchange construction project”) but once at K4MQG’s, all assembled had a great time. Even late arrivals were able to enjoy an “attitude adjustment” via a cold soda, cold beer, or a sip of wine. Rick Porter, AA4SC, catered the affair, and did his usual fine job with fried chicken, pork barbecue, cole slaw and baked beans. By popular demand, desserts were done pot luck style, and many wonderful (and sinful) desserts were available for the tasting. A list was kept noting all those who made two trips through the dessert line. A copy is available for \$50 for anyone who wants it. If not purchased, it will appear in next month’s *Pileup*!

Over 50 souls showed up for this year’s event, including many XYLS. We were happy to see Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL, (formerly W4WN and former VP of CDXA) back in the fold. Cliff recently moved back to Davidson, NC from the Allentown, PA area after braving a few Pennsylvania winters and remembering his 22 “winters” in Charlotte. Scott Douglass came down out of the foothills of the Blue Ridge for the event—a long haul for a Saturday evening. Bob Southworth came from near Love Valley up near Hiddenite. Bob was wearing a big grin because “he’s back”. (See article on Page 2 of this issue!). We had a few first time visitors from members like Steve Misk and his XYL. Many were also pleased to meet and greet the XYL of Silent Key, Bill Taylor (W4WBT) who came to see a few old friends.

A number of tables set up in the carport/driveway of K4MQG’s home provided some great conversation



Ken Boyd, K4DXA, in a reflective mood during the evening’s dinner conversations.

Some folks instinctively drifted into Gary’s shack after dinner to see Gary’s classy station. A few XYLS enjoyed watching Gary make a few QSOs sprinkled across the country with an ease that we should all enjoy. Gary even caught Larry Sossoman on 6 meters returning home from a conflicting event which prevented him from joining us for the evening.



Notice the big grin from Past President Bill Turner, W4WNT, while he sits in K4MQG’s operator position. We can all dream, Bill, can’t we? Gary’s 80 meter beam sure give’s you “ears”.

As the 10:00PM hour neared, many folks were just enjoying gabbing so much that they forgot the event had a nominal ending time of 9:00PM. It seemed that many just “got into it” this memorable evening and time was forgotten. The floodlights illuminating the BBQ area probably had something to do with many extended conversations because few noticed that it was pitch black at K4MQG’s location. With the able assistance of those still remaining at the end, the whole area was quickly policed, the chairs folded and the tables put away. And, many will remember to come again next year to resume the discussion where it left off.

Special thanks are due to Carol and Gary Dixon for opening their house for this event. Thanks, also, to Tom Wright, N4HN, for attending to all the details of scheduling, mailing reminders, and arranging the event for us to enjoy. And, lastly, thanks to Rick Porter for serving up the fine food fare. We hope to see all that didn’t make it this year at next year’s event. While the lights are out on this year’s event, next year, “We’ll keep the light on for ya.”

Good Conditions for Two Meter Sprint

Conditions during the four hour 2 meter “sprint” on September 20 were pretty good. Bill Fisher, W4GRW, spent the evening alone atop the mountains near Boone operating from the AA4ZZ contest station to prove that point. Many members of CDXA were heard in the “flatlands” near Charlotte calling Bill. His signal was a booming 5x9 in the Charlotte area captured by a 2m dipole laying on the floor of my shack!

On Tuesday morning K1TEO, a “big gun” station in Connecticut, offered the following “soapbox” comments on one of the reflectors, “Good activity and conditions for the 2M sprint last night. First time in a long [time] I can remember any real enhancement in a sprint.

W4GRW in EM96 was 20 over 9 much of the time I was on. Likewise WA4PGI in FM07. Best DX to the west was several EN82 stations, W8PAT in EN81, and K8TQK in EM89. To the south worked KE8FD and W4WA in EM84. Final tally was 127 QSO’s and 36 grids in the two hours I was able to get on. . . . 73, Jeff K1TEO”

Bill managed 170+ QSOs and 38 grids during his operating. Early claimed scores seem to have Bill in second place. Not bad for operating from the less populous region of the Carolinas in contrast to the populous Northeast corridor.

Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ, in the same event took his sons for a “roving” trip in EM95 and EM94 for a few hours until it was time for them to get home to bed. They enjoyed seeing what their Dad does during those radio contests they’ve heard so much about. Paul found a new “logger” in one of his sons who carefully logged the call signs of all stations Paul worked. Paul, it looks like you’ll have to give up one of your radios soon, huh?

Contest Catch-up

By John Scott, K8YC

The last few issues of QST and CQ have rolled into my house too fast for me, and I’ve been remiss in not giving credit for some fine contest performances by folks who have an affiliation with CDXA. So, here’s a rundown. If I’ve missed anyone, let me know, because a well-earned contest score is worthy of recognition.

The August ’04 issue of QST calls our attention to the January 2004 VHF Sweepstakes where the AA4ZZ

mountaintoppers captured 4th place from a cold mountaintop. Their score submitted on behalf of CDXA was mostly responsible for CDXA appearing in the list of Medium-sized club scores.

Open the September, 2004 issue of CQ to Page 14 and you’ll find that Bill Tippet, W4ZV, showed his usual dominance of the 10 meter single band category of the 2003 CQWW CW contest for USA operators. His effort also earned him 5th in the overall world standings. CDXA achieved some recognition for our 15,383,214 points in the contest, but also showed that we have some room to move up in this year’s contest if we all get behind our CWAC effort.

On to the October issues. Am I caught up yet? Page 101 of the October, 2004 issue of QST provides the results for the 2004 ARRL International DX Phone results. Steve Sullivan, KZ2I, was awarded 811,125 points to claim third place in the high-power division of the Southeast Region in this contest.

Ohmygosh, did, I miss the June issue, too? Yep, there on Page 101 of June’s QST, we find Steve Reichlyn, AA4V, took his shot in the 2003 ARRL 160m Contest and earned recognition in the Southeast region. Someone besides Steve was operating on behalf of the CDXA in the contest because the CDXA score more than doubled Steve’s score. Will the other CDXAers please stand up?

Now, I’m almost caught up on my reading list. Cruising along on the VHF Plus page of October’s CQ, there’s a note from our own Vice President, Tom Wright (N4HN) on the recent sporadic-E openings. Tom writes, “I started working stations on 2 meters at 2248 UTC on July 6 when I got home. In the next hour I worked 36 stations in 24 grids—all new ones for me. I worked EN12, 13, 22, 31, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40, 43, 44, 51, 53, 54, 64, 65, 66, 72, 74, 82, and 93 (Canada). The longest QSO was 1062 miles. Also FN34 (Vermont) and FN41 (Rhode Island). That was seven new states. I also managed to work Montana on 6 meters for state number 45. The day before, on July 5, I worked four new grids on 2 meters between 2024 and 2113 UTC. These included FN65, 74, 84, and GN08, the last on being VO1TJM, for a distance of 1427 miles! I have only been active on 2 meters SSB since the 2003 September VHF contest. Thanks to these recent openings, I added 28 grids in two days. I now have 85 grids worked!”

No more magazines? That’s it for this month.

Scenes from Shelby

Your editor had good intentions of making it to Shelby again this year. In fact, he called N4ZC a day or two before the event to see if Roger needed a ride. Then the day of the event came, and late Saturday morning, it dawned on him that “the Granddaddy of them all” was in progress and he was deep into other things. Ah, well.....

Nevertheless, a few thoughtful souls did send along some pictures for you to enjoy of “happenings at Shelby.



Bob Burton and Pat Patterson squint through the midday sun at this years Shelby Hamfest to greet the photographer.



Gary Dixon and Les Shattuck made a lot of DXers happy by checking QSL cards at Shelby. No need to let those precious QSL card out of your sight!



Left to right: Pat Patterson, Bill Fisher, Josh Fisher and Bill Turner try to find some shade from the hot sun. Sure beats the drizzle of last year's start.

Hold Your Breath—VU4 On Tap?

An interesting item appeared in *The Weekly DX* issue of October 11, 2004 Edited/Published by Bernie McClenny, W3UR. Two separate efforts by Indian nationals to allow them to operate from Nicobar & Andaman Islands is being mounted. From chatting with a number of CDXA members still not on the top of the Honor Roll, your editor believes that these islands are ones that many need—including himself!

The last authorized DXpedition to these islands was in October 1987. The two folks separately working on this effort are VU2WAP and VU2RBI (XYL).

It appears from Bernie's newsletter that letters are being sought from hams worldwide in support of the desire to activate VU4. These letters will be presented to Indian authorities to make the case for authorizing an operation. Addresses to make your interests known:

VU2WAP - Manoj Agarwal
44/1E Fair Field Layout Race Course Road
Bangalore 560001, INDIA

VU2RBI - Mrs. Bharathi Prasad
Qtr. #1284
Type IV Special, Sector 12
R. K. Puram, New Delhi, 110022, INDIA

Sounds like a plan to me. Keep those cards and letters coming! —The Editor

The Back Page

It's **CONTEST TIME** again! Yep, the **Contest Within A Contest** (CWAC or See Whack) is upon us again. Let's see if CDXA can continue to increase its club score again in 2004. Paul Sturpe has set out a 'cannot be beat' prize offering. A prize is ready for everyone who totals 100 or more QSOs in either or both contests, and additional prizes for even more QSOs are part of the same package. See the Front Page for details. More score in '04!

If you didn't make the **CDXA Barbecue** on the weekend of October 9, you missed a great event. Recap and pictures inside on Page 5.

Didn't get to "**The Granddaddy of the All**" this year? Turn to Page 7 for a picture recap of this late summer event.

Did you say you still need **Nicobar and Andaman Islands**? Some late breaking news is inside on Page 7, brought to you by *The Weekly DX* published on October 11.

On Monday, October 11, Paul (W3GQ) installed **AR Cluster software at our Young Mountain (W4DXA)** spotting network node. Young Mountain is a rocky knoll about 11 miles NE of Mooresville and serves users well north of Charlotte via RF connections on 144.93 MHz and 441.00 MHz. One change for users of this site is that the alias, DXY, used to sign into the older Pavilion software will no longer be operable. By switching to AR software, both the K4MD and W4DXA nodes will be running the same software, ensuring smoother data interchange between the nodes. A future issue of *The Pileup* will highlight improvements expected from the new software.

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify K4SQR at once, please.